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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
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TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, PINS, PINT, PINR, SOPN, MILI, US, AF, PGOV  
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT, OCTOBER 12-7:0 1982

1. (C.-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USED IN BRIEF-  
ING THE PRESS, PROTECTING SOURCES WHERE INDICATED.

3. SUMMARY, THOUGH RESISTANCE ACTIVITY WAS AT A RELATIVELY LOW  
LEVEL LAST WEEK, REGIME TROOPS SURROUNDED VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS  
OF THE CAPITAL AND NEARBY VILLAGES AND SEARCHED FOR WEAPONS, MUJA-  
HIDEEN AND POTENTIAL CONSCRIPTS. AMONG THE VARIOUS RUMORS  
CIRCULATING INTANBUL IS THE THEFT--PRESUMABLY BY THE RESISTANCE--  
OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF REGIME SUBSIDIZED WHEAT.  
SPECULATION CONTINUES CONCERNING THE DEATH OF CENTRAL CORPS  
COMMANDEER WODUD, REJECTING THE OFFICIAL LINE THAT HE COMMITTED  
SUICIDE, MANY BELIEVE THAT HE WAS SHOT BY PARCHANISTS OR  
SOVIETS IN RETALIATION FOR A BAD DECISION THAT LEAD TO THE DEATHS  
OF A NUMBER OF KHAD TROOPS IN NANGARHAR PROVINCE LAST MONTH.

4. ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 18 THE REGIME STAGED A PARTICULARLY  
LACKLUSTER AND ILL ATTENDED DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE US EMBASSY  
THE UNRESPONSIVE CROWD OF NO MORE THAN 3000 SCHOOLCHILDREN,  
TEACHERS, MINISTRY WORKERS AND SECRET POLICE BEGAN TO WANDER OFF  
IN THE MIDDLE OF A SERIES OF SHRILL REPETITIOUS SPEAKERS.

5. THROUGHOUT THE WEEK SOLDIERS WAVING KALASHNIKOVs PREVENTED  
RESIDENT DIPLOMATS FROM REACHING THE KARGA DAM GOLF COURSE,  
PRESUMABLY TO CONCEAL THE SECOND WEEK OF AERIAL AND ARTILLERY  
BOMBARDMENT OF PAGHMAN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES. THE  
VILLAGE OF GULDARA WAS PARTICULARLY HEAVY HIT BY SOVIETS DURING  
THE CURRENT OFFENSIVE IN THE SHOMALI REGION NORTH OF THE CAPITAL.  
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THE ENTRANCE TO THE LOGAR VALLEY SOUTH OF KABUL, WHICH WAS THE  
SCENE OF BITTER FIGHTING IN EARLY SUMMER, IS NOW GUARDED BY  
SOVIET TANKS AND CREWS.

6. ACCORDING TO TRAVELLERS, THE CENTER OF THE NORTHERN CITY  
OF HAZAR-E-SHARIF REMAINS UNDER REGIME CONTROL DURING THE DAY,  
THOUGH MUJAHIDEEN ARE ACTIVE IN THE CITY AND SURROUNDING AREA AT  
NIGHT. AS IN THE REGION SURROUNDING KABUL, SOVIET BOMBARDMENT  
OF RESISTANCE BASES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN  
INTENSE. IN KANDAHAR TO THE SOUTH THE STALEMATE BETWEEN RE-

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SISTANCE AND REGIME FORCES REMAINS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME. SECURITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN KANDAHAR ARE LARGELY NON-EXISTENT, AND THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO ELECTRICITY. IN AN UNANNOUNCED MOVE THAT REVEALS THE FAILURE OF THE REGIME POLICY OF BUYING OFF THE PASHTUN TRIBES, THE REGIME IS APPARENTLY TRYING TO CONSCRIPT PAKISTAN TRIBESMAN WHO HAVE BEEN EXEMPT FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS. (1)

7. KABUL ATOSPHERICS. THOUGH THERE WAS NO APPARENT INCREASE IN MUJAHIDEEN ACTIVITY LAST WEEK, REGIME SOLDIERS CONDUCTED NUMEROUS HOUSE TO HOUSE SEARCHES IN VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS OF KABUL AND VILLAGES NEAR THE CITY. AMONG THE AREAS SEARCHED WERE GALAI FATULLAH KHAN, CHAR GALA, SAYYED NUR MOHD. SHAH, AND DEH SADZ WHERE, ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT, A HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN TEN DAYS AGO. THESE AREAS ARE NEAR THE AIRPORT WHERE THERE WAS A MAJOR FIREFIGHT ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 13/14. THERE ARE WIDESPREAD BUT UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE MUJAHIDEEN MANAGED TO PENETRATE AIRPORT PERIMETER SECURITY AND ATTACK CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT THOUGH THEIR ROCKETS MISSED THE TARGET. SIMILAR SEARCHES WERE CONDUCTED IN THE DASHT-E-BARCHI AREA WEST OF KABUL, CHILSITOON CLOSE TO DARULAMAN, AND PARTS OF THE OLD CITY. TYPICALLY THE AREA TO BE SEARCHED IS SURROUNDED BY AFGHAN SOLDIERS JUST BEFORE THE CURFEW ENDS AT 4 AM. NO RESIDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE AREA DURING THE SEARCH WHICH USUALLY LASTS WELL INTO THE AFTERNOON. WHILE PAPERS WERE CHECKED AND POTENTIAL CONSCRIPTS TRUCKED OFF, THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTS OF THE SEARCHES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WEAPONS AND MUJAHIDEEN. WE HAVE NOT HEARD  
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THAT THE SEARCHES PROVOKED FIGHTING, NOR THAT ANY WEAPONS OR MUJAHIDEEN WERE DISCOVERED.

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B. DEMONSTRATION AT THE U.S. EMBASSY: FOR AN HOUR ON THE MORNING  
OF OCTOBER 18, THE DRA REGIME STAGED WHAT AMOUNTED TERA TRAVESTY

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OF A DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN KABUL. THE BORED AND UNENTHUSIASTIC CROWD WHICH WAS MARCHED INTO POSITION UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF RIOT TROOPS AND SECRET POLICE OPERATIVES PROBABLY NUMBERED LESS THAN 3,000 AND WAS MADE UP OF THE USUAL SPRINKLING OF TEACHERS, SCHOOL CHILDREN, AND LOW LEVEL WORKERS AND FUNCTIONARIES WHO HAD BEEN ORDERED THE PREVIOUS DAY TO MARCH IN AN UNANNOUNCED CAUSE. THERE APPEARED TO BE NO SPECIFIC OCCASION OR THEME FOR THIS LATEST ROUND OF COMMUNIST THEATER, AND SLOGANEERS AND SPEAKERS THUS REITERATED THEIR STALE CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF THE SOVIET-IMPOSED REGIME AND DENUNCIATIONS OF THE U.S., CHINA, PAKISTAN AND ISRAEL. THE ONLY NEW NOTE STRUCK BY ONE SPEAKER WAS A DENUNCIATION OF HAFIZULLAH AMIN, THE MOST BRUTAL OF AFGHANISTAN'S THREE COMMUNIST RULERS, AS A CIA AGENT. NO MAJOR REGIME FIGURE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THE FIELD WAS LEFT TO MINOR LEAGUERS SUCH AS A THIRD RATE CLERIC AND A WORKER FROM A LOCAL FACTORY WHO WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY STUMBLED THROUGH HIS PREPARED SPEECH.

9. THE CROWD, WHICH WAS MANY TIMES SMALLER THAN THOSE GATHERED FOR OTHER ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS, WAS AT LEAST AS BORED BY THE PROCEEDINGS AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. AS USUAL, THE AMPLIFIED VOICES OF THE REGIME CHEERLEADERS AND SPEAKERS DROWNED OUT WHAT SCATTERED APPLAUSE THERE WAS, AND ONLY A VERY SMALL MINORITY OF THOSE PRESENT JOINED ON CUE IN THE CRIES OF "LONG LIVE" OR "DEATH". A NEW FEATURE OF THESE PROCEEDINGS WAS THAT MANY IN THE CROWD BEGAN LEAVING ALMOST AS SOON AS THEY HAD BEEN HERDED INTO POSITION WHILE OTHERS SAT AND CHATTED BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. BY THE TIME THE LEATHER-LUNGED MILITANTS CALLED OFF THE DEMONSTRATION, MORE THAN HALF THE AUDIENCE HAD DISAPPEARED, AND THE GAPS IN THE CROWD WERE GLARINGLY APPARENT. THE MOST SKILLFUL DOCTORING OF REGIME-MADE VIDEOTAPES OF THE DEMONSTRATION WILL BE NEEDED IF IT

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IS TO BE AIRED ON TELEVISION WITHOUT REVEALING TTC APATHY OF THIS SHALL SEGMENT OF KABUL SOCIETY DISPLAYED TOWARDS ITS "REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP".

10. TAKE THEOXONEY AND RUN. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RUNS COOPERATIVE STORES/CLUBS FOR ITS EMPLOYEES TO PROVIDE STAPLES AND OTHER PRODUCTS NORMALLY UNAVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR AVAILABLE AT A HIGHER PRICE. IN EARLY OCTOBER THE STORE NEAR THE DEHMAZANG TRAFFIC CIRCLE WAS FOUND ABANDONED AND MISSING THE CASH BOX WHICH SHOULD HAVE CONTAINED ABOUT 70,000 AFGHANIS (AROUND \$1000) FEARING FOUL PLAY THE MINISTRY SENT A CAR TO THE HOME OF THE

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OFFICER WHO RAN THE STORE, NOT ONLY HAD THE OFFICER APPARENTLY FLED THE COUNTRY, BUT HAD MANAGED TO SELL HIS HOUSE AND CAR IN ADVANCE.

11. ANOTHER STORY MAKING THE ROUNDS IN KABUL CONCERNS THE THEFT OF REGIME PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF SUBSIDIZED FLOUR. IN SEPTEMBER THE REGIME ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD SELL FLOUR TO PEOPLE AT A SUBSIDIZED PRICE OF 120 AFGHANIS PER SEER (CURRENT BAZAAR PRICE PER SEER--SEVEN KILOS--IS OVER 200 AFGHANIS). KABUL CITIZENS WERE TO PRESENT THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AT THE 15-20 DEPOTS AROUND THE CAPITAL AND RECEIVE THEIR RATIONS. ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO A CAR WAS DISPATCHED FROM THE SOVIET-BUILT REGIME SILO TO COLLECT THE MONIES FROM THE VARIOUS DISTRIBUTION POINTS AND CONVEY IT TO THE DA AFGHANISTAN BANK. ON THE WAY TO THE BANK, THE CAR WAS STOPPED BY SEVERAL PEOPLE DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WHO TOOK THREE BAGS OF HONEY, APPARENTLY OVERLOOKING A FOURTH. THE ESTIMATED LOSS WAS 4-5 HILLION AFGHANIS (\$70-90 THOUSAND). WHILE NO ONE IS SURE WHO STOLE THE HONEY, MANY BELIEVE IT TO FIAHIDEEN A HUBHIDEEN OPERATION.

12. DEATH OF GENERAL WODUD. THOUGH THE REGIME CONTINUES TO PUSH THE LINE IN THE MINISTRIES THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE CENTRAL CORPS COMMITTED SUICIDE, THAT VERSION OF THE DEATH OF GENERAL WODUD REPORTEDLY HAS MET CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ITSELF. ACCORDING TO ONE RUMOR CURRENT IN MILITARY CIRCLES (WHICH WE CAN NOT RPT. NOT CONFIRM) WODUD WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD AND  
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SIDE BY AFGHAN OR SOVIET OFFICERS FOR HIS ROLE IN A RECENT DEBACLE IN KUNAR PROVINCE. WODUD ALLEGEDLY MADE THE DECISION TO SEND KHAD FORCES (WHICH WERE PRIMARILY PARCHAMISTS) INTO THE KHOGIANI VALLEY TO ACCEPT THE SURRENDER OF A SUBSTANTIAL MUJAHIDEEN FORCE. AS REPORTED TWO WEEKS AGO, HE REGIME FORCES WERE KILLED BY MUJAHIDEEN.

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13. GOLF COURSE OFF LIMITS. OFFICIAL REGIME POLICY IS TO RESTRICT  
RESIDENT DIPLOMATS TO WITHIN 20 KILOMETERS OF KABL. IN PRACTICE

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THE ONLY PLACE OUTSIDE OF KABUL WHERE DIPLOMATS ARE ALLOWED IS THE 9 HOLE DIRT AND ROCK GOLF COURSE AT KARGHA DAM, SOME 7 KM FROM KABUL ON THE ROAD TO PAGHMAN. WHILE THE ROAD TO KARGAH HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN BLOCKED FOR A DAY OR TWO AT A TIME DURING THE LAST YEAR, IT HAS NEVER BEEN CLOSED AS LONG AS IT WAS LAST WEEK. FROM MONDAY OCTOBER 11 UNTIL FRIDAY MORNING, WESTERN AND UN DIPLOMATS WERE STOPPED SHORT OF THE CLUBHOUSE BY SOLDIERS WHOSE ONLY RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WAS TO AIM THEIR KALASHNIKOVs. WHILE NO EXPLANATION HAS BEEN GIVEN, THE REGIME IS CLEARLY TRYING TO CONCEAL THE DAILY BOMBING, ROCKETING, AND SHELLING OF VILLAGES STRETCHING FROM KARGAH TO PAGHMAN WHICH CAN CLEARLY BE SEEN FROM THE CLUBHOUSE.

14. PAGHMAN. SOVIET GROUND FORCES WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE PAGHMAN AREA ON OCTOBER 8 AND 9 THOUGH THE AFGHAN TROOPS SENT INTO THE AREA AROUND OCTOBER 8 REMAIN. BOMBING AND ROCKETING OF PAGHMAN AND THE VILLAGES IN BEG TOOT AND THE PASHAI VALLEY HAVE CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. ESPECIALLY HARD HIT WERE KHOJA MOSAFER, GOZAH AND ISA KHEL. THE MAJORITY OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA HAVE FLED TO KABUL, THOUGH WOMEN RETURN TO HARVEST FRUIT AND GRAPES IN THE MORNING. ARTILLERY AND ROCKET LAUNCHERS HAVE ALSO DIRECTED THEIR FIRE TO THE MOUNTAINS SURROUNDING PAGHMAN EITHER TO HIT SUSPECTED MUJAHIDEEN POSITIONS OR TO KEEP RESISTANCE FIGHTERS FROM VANTAGES FROM WHICH THEY COULD ROCKET HELICOPTERS DURING THEIR LOW LEVEL RUNS. WHILE LOCAL SOURCES (PROTECT) ASSERT THAT NUMEROUS TANKS, TRUCKS, AND APC'S HAVE FALLEN TO RESISTANCE MINES AND ROCKETS DURING THE WEEK, ONLY ONE HELICOPTER HAS BEEN ROCKETED IN ADDITION TO THOSE MENTIONED LAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT, THE REMAINS OF ONE HELICOPTER SHOT DOWN NEAR HAIDANSHAR WAS TRANSPORTED TO KABUL ON OCTOBER 17.

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15. THE LOGAR VALLEY: A WESTERN JOURNALIST (PROTECT) WHO IN MID-OCTOBER ATTENDED A LAND DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY AT A SITE IN THE LOGAR VALLEY TWENTY KILOMETERS FROM KABUL FOUND THE AREA TO BE UNDER TIGHT CONTROL OF THE SOVIET ARMY. SOVIET TANKS, THE JOURNALIST NOTED, GUARDED THE ACCESS TO THE VALLEY FROM KABUL, AND THEIR CREWS WERE HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF THE DRA REGIME ESCORT WITH WHICH HE TRAVELLED TO THE CEREMONY. THE JOURNALIST OBTAINED NO CLEAR IDEA OF HOW MUCH FARTHER SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES HAVE PENETRATED INTO THE VALLEY WHICH WAS THE SCENE OF BITTER FIGHTING IN THE EARLY SUMMER AND WHICH AS BEEN HEAVILY BOMBARDED SINCE THAT TIME.

16. THE SHIOHALI: THE SOVIETS LAID A PARTICULARLY HEAVY HAND ON THE  
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VILLAGE OF GULDARA LOCATED TO THE WEST OF THE HIGHWAY TO THE SOVIET FRONTIER AND ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF KABUL. FOLLOWING A HEAVY BOMBARDMENT AROUND OCTOBER 10, SOVIET PATROLS CLOSED OFF ALL ACCESS ROADS TO THE VILLAGE, THUS PREVENTING THE LOCAL POPULACE FROM TRAVELLING TO KABUL TO MARKET THEIR RECENTLY HARVESTED GRADES AND OTHER CROPS. NOT UNTIL A VILLAGE ELDER MANAGED TO MAKE HIS WAY THROUGH THE BLOCKADE TO LODGE A COMPLAINT WITH THE AUTHORITIES DID THE SOVIETS RELAX THEIR CONTROLS SOMEWHAT AND BEGIN ALLOWING COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC TO LEAVE GULDARA FOR KABUL ONCE MORE. WITH MUCH OF THE NON-COMBATANT POPULATION HAVING SOUGHT REFUGE IN KABUL AND ELSEWHERE, THE VILLAGE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE RESISTANCE AND THE FEW INTREPID FARMERS LEFT BEHIND TO HARVEST THE CROPS. THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT GULDARA ARE NOW SAID TO BE RELUCTANT TO RETURN BECAUSE OF DEMANDS FOR MONEY MADE OF THEM BY RESISTANCE FIGHTERS BASED IN THE AREA.

17. REGIME TRIBAL POLICY. THE REGIME'S MUCH PUBLICIZED EFFORTS TO WIN OVER--OR AT LEAST NEUTRALIZE--THE TRIBAL PASHTUNS OF PAKTIA PROVINCE APPEAR TO HAVE FAILED. ACCORDING TO NUMEROUS SOURCES, THE REGIME BEGAN ATTEMPTING TO DRAFT PAKTIANS AS WELL AS NOMADS (MANY OF WHICH ARE GHILZAI PASHTUNS) ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO. IN THE KABUL AREA WE KNOW OF ONE CONFIRMED INSTANCE OF A JAJI TRIBESMAN BEING CONSCRIPTED. THE REVERSAL OF POLICY TOWARDS THE TRIBES LENDS CREDENCE TO REPORTS THAT A SIGNIFICANT FIGHT TOOK PLACE NEAR MATUN  
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ABOUT A MONTH AGO BETWEEN REGIME FORCES AND JAJI AND MANGAL TRIBESMEN. A 1980 ATTEMPT TO BUY OFF THE TRIBES CULMINATED IN THE MURDER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS MINISTER FAIZ MOHAMMAD AS HE WAS IN THE PROCESS OF PAYING A TRIBAL SUBSIDY IN PAKTIA.

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18. BACKGROUND ON PAKTIA. PAKTIA IS A STRATEGIC PROVINCE BORDERING  
PAKISTAN THROUGH WHICH FLOW ARMS AND REFUGEES AND FROM WHICH COMES

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THE WOOD TRADITIONALLY USED TO HEAT HOMES IN KABUL DURING THE WINTER. PAKTIAN TRIBESMEN ARE PERHAPS THE MOST REBELLIOUS, IF TREACHEROUS, OF AFGHAN WARRIORS. OVER FIFTY YEARS AGO THEY WERE GRANTED PERMANENT EXEMPTION FROM MILITARY SERVICE BY THE THEN KING, NAQER SHAH, FOR THEIR ROLE IN DEFEATING THE TAJIK WHO HAD SEIZED KABUL FOLLOWING THE TRIBAL REBELLION WHICH OVERTHREW KING AMANULLAH. IN THE MID-1970'S THEN PRESIDENT DAUD ABANDONED HIS EFFORT TO CONSCRIPT PAKTIAN TRIBESMEN AFTER PITCHED BATTLES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT FORCES AND TRIBAL LEVIES.

19. TRAVELLERS' NOTES: A SOURCE WHO VISITED MAZAR-E-SHARIF IN EARLY OCTOBER (PROTECT), INFORMS US THE RESISTANCE REMAINS ACTIVE IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN. THROUGHOUT THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, THE HARAKAT-E-ENQELABI-YE-ISLAMI (ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT) OF MOHAMMAD NABI MOHAMMADI AND PROFESSOR BURHANUDDIN RABDANI'S JAMIAT-E-ISLAMI (ISLAMIC SOCIETY) HAVE BECOME PREDOMINANT AND ARE REPORTEDLY COOPERATING TOGETHER MORE CLOSELY THAN IN THE PAST. BY CONTRAST, THE HEZB-E-ISLAMI (ISLAMIC PARTY) OF GULBUDDIN HEKHATYAR AND THE IRANIAN-SUPPORTED SAZHAN-E-NASR (VICTORY ORGANIZATION), WHICH HAS INFLUENCE AMONG AFGHANISTAN'S HAZARA ETHNIC MINORITY, ARE SAID TO HAVE LOST GROUND.

20. THE SITUATION IN THE CITY OF HAZAR-E-SHARIF REMAINS ABOUT AS IT HAS BEEN IN RECENT MONTHS. THE CENTER OF TOWN IS UNDER REGIME CONTROL BY DAY, AND TWO HIGH SCHOOLS AND FOUR PRIMARY INSTITUTIONS FUNCTION NORMALLY. THE CITY'S MARKETS CLOSE IN MID-AFTERNOON, HOWEVER, AND THE NOCTURNAL ACTIVITIES OF THE MUJAHIDEEN MAKE MOVEMENT AROUND THE CITY A RISKY BUSINESS. THE PRICE OF WHEAT IN MAZAR HAS RISEN TO 200 AFGHANIS PER SEER (7 KILOS), REPORTEDLY BECAUSE THE RESISTANCE IS NO LONGER ALLOWING FARMERS TO BRING GRAIN TO THE  
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CITY'S MARKETS. OUTSIDE MAZAR, THERE HAVE BEEN FREQUENT CLASHES BETWEEN RESISTANCE AND REGIME/SOVIET FORCES. IN EARLY OCTOBER, SOVIET AND REGIME TROOPS SUCCEEDED IN SURROUNDING A RESISTANCE STRONGHOLD AT MANGAJIK, NOT FAR FROM AQCHA, 130 KILOMETERS WEST OF MAZAR. AFTER A PROTRACTED BATTLE, THE RESISTANCE FORCES SUCCEEDED IN BREAKING THE SIEGE AND IN MAKING GOOD THEIR ESCAPE, KILLING 35-40 SOVIETS IN THE PROCESS. IN ANDKHOI IN THE EXTREME NORTH-WESTERN CORNER OF THE COUNTRY, THE REGIME'S PRESENCE IS STRONG THANKS TO A LARGE CONTINGENT OF SOVIET TROOPS WHICH USE THE TOWN AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS. AS HAS BEEN TRUE ELSEWHERE IN AFGHANISTAN, SOVIET NONDARDMENTS OF SUSPECTED RESISTANCE BASES HAS BEEN

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INTENSE IN THE NORTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY. THE LATEST VILLAGE TO SUFFER SUCH RAIDS WAS STAHGERD, MIDWAY BETWEEN NAZAR AND THE FRONTIER, WHICH WAS HEAVILY BOMBARDED ON OCTOBER 6.

21. TRAVELLERS FROM KANDAHAR SAY THAT THE STALEMATE BETWEEN SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE RESISTANCE ON THE OTHER IS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. SOVIET TROOPS WERE KEEPING TO THEIR GARRISON IN THE AIRPORT OUTSIDE TOWN AND TRAVEL BETWEEN THERE AND TOWN IN CONVOYS OFTEN GUARDED BY HELICOPTERS. SECURITY INSIDE KANDAHAR IS MAINTAINED BY A NUMBER OF POSTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED SINCE THE SOVIETS ATTACKED THE CITY EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND THE REGIME HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS THERE IN ITS LATEST DRIVE TO DRAGOON NEW RECRUITS AND RESERVISTS INTO THE ARMED FORCES. ALSO, AS HAS BEEN TRUE IN KABUL, REGIME PRESS GANGS HAVE BEGUN FOR THE FIRST TIME TO PRESS INTO MILITARY SERVICE PREVIOUSLY EXEMPTED TRIBESMEN AND NOHADS.

22. SECURITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN KANDAHAR ARE STILL LARGELY NON-EXISTENT. VIRTUALLY ALL THE CITY IS STILL WITHOUT ELECTRIC POWER, AND THE ONLY SCHOOL THAT IS FUNCTIONING IS THE AL BIRUNI HIGH SCHOOL WHICH IS ATTENDED ONLY BY THE CHILDREN OF PARTY LOYALISTS AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. RESISTANCE FIGHTERS MOVE OPENLY ABOUT THE CITY ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT, AS IN THE PAST, CARRY THEIR WEAPONS WHEN WALKING IN AREAS OSTENSIBLY UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL. THE MAHALAJAT DISTRICT, LONG A RESISTANCE STRONGHOLD, CONFIDENTIAL  
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IS UNDER FULL CONTROL OF THE MUJAHIDEEN ONCE MORE, AND ATTACKS FROM THE MAHALAJAT AGAINST THE NEARBY SHIKARPUR BAZAAR ARE REPORTEDLY FREQUENT. ALTHOUGH BY NO MEANS A REGULAR OCCURRENCE, RAIDS AGAINST MILITARY AND POLICE POSTS AROUND TOWN OCCUR SEVERAL TIMES EACH MONTH.  
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